第6巻
MOTOMU MODORU
本仁戻
探偵青猫
花音

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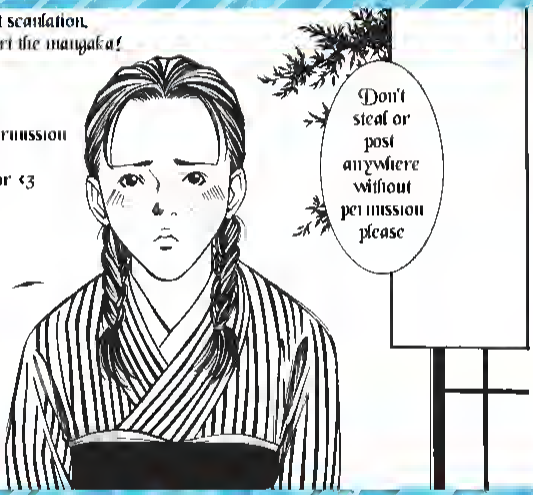
this is a non-profit scanlation.
please try to support the mangaka!

if this scanlation
is found anywhere
without Kyuu's permission
this girl will come
sobbing at your door <3



comments and
contact: Astheram
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OF COURSE I KNOW
ABOUT THE FACT THAT 2 YEARS AGO, YOU CAME BACK TO JAPAN.
THAT YOU'VE BEEN RUNNING A SECRET CLUB IN THE VICINITY OF S TOWN.
AND THAT ITS PATRONS BELONGING TO THE HIGH SOCIETY HAVE BEEN INCREASING STEADILY
HOWEVER,
THAT I WOULD BE MADE TO WAIT 2 YEARS UNTIL YOU WOULD COME TO GREET ME
IT IS SOMEWHAT UNEXPECTED
YOU SHOULD BE GLAD JUST FOR MY COMING TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS

FOR ME, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME
I SHOW MY FACE TO A MAN I'VE ABANDONED...
MIGHT MEAN THAT YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE I'VE EVER BEEN IN LOVE WITH...
I WONDER ABOUT THAT... THAT I CAME HERE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS.
...I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEING IN LOVE.

I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU BEING IN LOVE.
IT ISN'T WORTHY OF INFATUATION.
BUT, "MARIA'S TEAR"...
YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SAY IT TWICE.
WELL, I GUESS IT'S TIME I ASKED
HAVE YOU FOUND SOMETHING THAT IS UP TO YOUR STANDARDS, NEPENTHES?

I WANT THAT...
THE GEM THAT YOU FAILED TO STEAL,
THE PREY THAT YOU ONCE GOT HOLD OF,
I, NEPENTHES, IS GOING TO HAVE IT,
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD LET YOU KNOW.
THERE'S NO WAY THE GREAT FEMALE THIEF WOULD COME TO ME JUST FOR THAT.
IT'S JUST AS YOU IMAGINED,
THAT ISN'T THE ONLY THING I WANT TO HAVE.

A YOUTHFUL, CLEVER, IDEAL GEM.
THAT BEAUTEOUS YOUNG DETECTIVE,
"DETECTIVE AONEKO".
YES, OF COURSE I KNOW,
THAT YOU AND THAT NARCISSUS PRETEND TO HAVE A RIVALRY..
BUT I WISH TO STOP TIME FOR THAT YOUNG MAN.
I WANT TO STOP THE CURSED GEARS WHICH PRODUCE THAT SORROWFUL TICKING NOISE,
AND ADORN MY MANSION WITH HIM IN HIS CURRENT, MOST BEAUTIFUL STATE..

FORGIVE ME, GLASS BAT.
IF YOU WANT TO OBSTRUCT ME, YOU'RE FREE TO DO SO.
BUT I'M NOT ONE TO LOSE TO YOU.
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'VE MISUNDERSTOOD ME.
I DON'T CARE. NOT AT ALL...

Thus, I meet her for the first time tonight.
DO YOU LIKE BEARDSLEY..?
It was a low, indecent whisper that must have driven countless men to their madness.
and it almost had the resonance of a "Je t' aime".

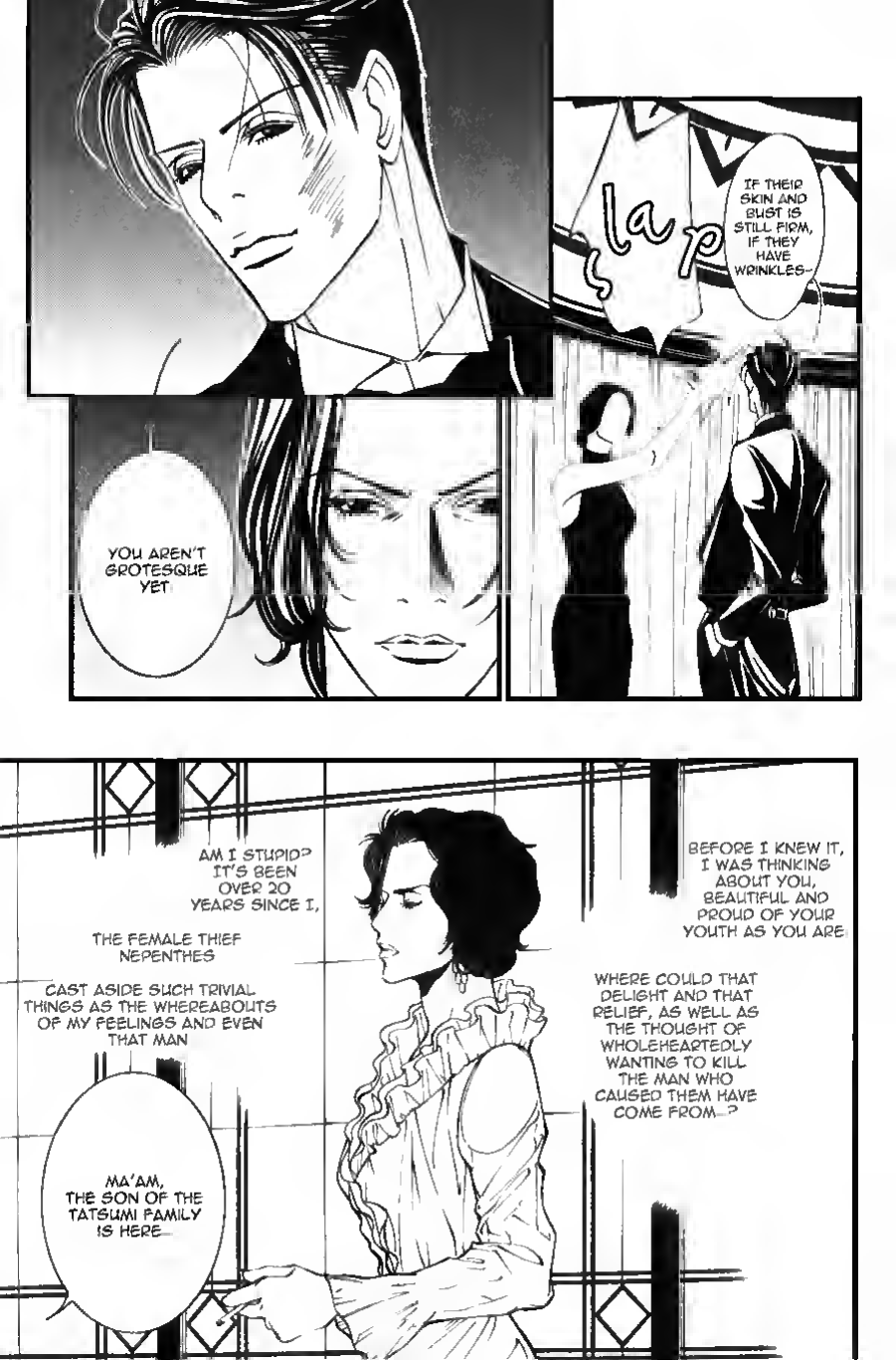
AND IT ISN'T LIKE I STILL HAVE FEELINGS FOR THAT MAN.
I JUST HAPPEN TO KNOW THAT THE THINGS THAT MAN GROWS ATTACHED TO ARE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.
IT ISN'T LIKE I HAD AN INTEREST IN AONEKO.
IT'S BECAUSE THAT MAN IS SO ATTACHED TO AONEKO
譚
スの袋 其の壱

WHAT A WORTH-LESS TRIAL
AS I THOUGHT "I'M BEING MOCKED", I GAVE NO ANSWER
DO YOU LIKE BEARDSLEY..?
FIRST, I ASKED THAT QUESTION.
AT THAT TIME, I UNDER-STOOD
AHA HAHAH!!
THE REASON WHY HE HAD COME
UHUU..
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL MAN...
THE WAY HE FACED THAT QUESTION MEANT TO SHOWCASE HIS WEAKNESS WAS EROTIC, EVEN BEAUTIFUL
I WONDER WHY..
YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER.
YOU HATE HIM, DON'T YOU...
YOU DISLIKE BEARDSLEY.
WHAT A SUCCULENT WOMAN.
IF THIS PLACE WASN'T [illegible] UNDERGOING CLUE, I WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY INDULGED.

...
AAH HE FINALLY LOOKED MY WAY.
GROTESQUE EROTICA... YOU HATE IT, RIGHT?
DO YOU HAVE A TRAUMA, MAYBE..?
NOT ONLY DID HE NOT EXPRESS ANY REVOLT,
YES
I DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER
THAT SMILE, THAT BEAUTY WHAT COULD THEY BE?
NO, I FIGURED IT OUT IN A SPLIT SECOND
AT THE END OF THE TENDRIL OF THE NEPENTHES*, THE SWEET ENTRANCE TO THE PITCHER OF DEATH AWAITS...
THIS JOY, THIS SENSE OF RELIEF...WHAT COULD THEY BE?
I COULD LIKE THIS OF A GLANCE FROM A MERE MAN...

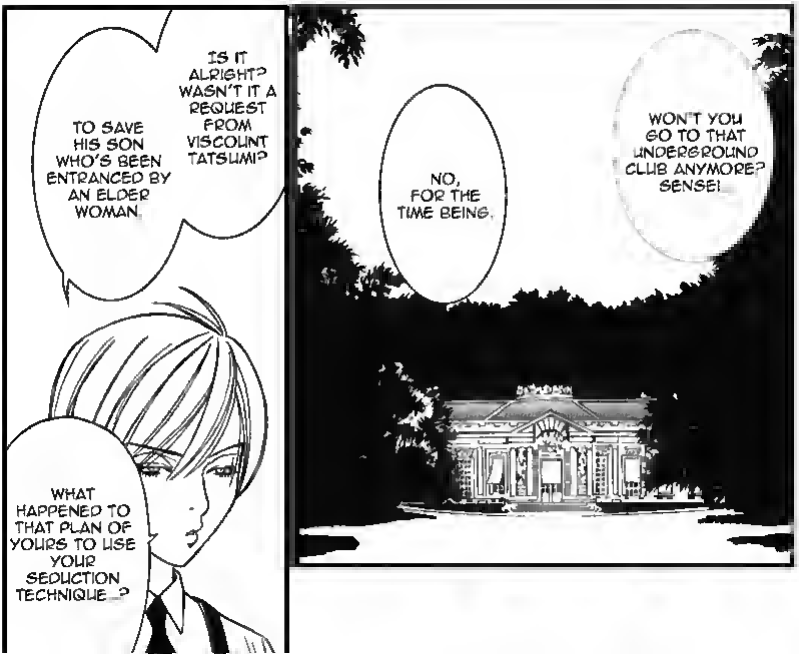
* In this whole chapter, the female title, Nepenthes, is being parallelized to nepenthes, the tropical pitcher plant.

FROM HERE ON AFTER,
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO COME TO ME,
I WOULD NOT GO TO YOU
THIS IS NEPENTHES' WAY
BUT PUTTING THAT ASIDE, I THOUGHT THAT,
I CAN'T ALLOW THAT MAN
WHO JUST NOW PUT ME IN AN UNEXPECTED MOOD, TO LIVE
I ALSO UNDERSTAND WHY THAT MAN HAS BECOME ATTACHED
THIS COULD BECOME THE BEST PIECE OF EROTICA EVEN IN MY ART GALLERY
I MEAN, WHEN THE YEARS HAVE PILED UP, WOMEN BECOME CONCERNED, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY'RE IN FRONT OF A YOUNGSTER LIKE ME
THEY ASK THEMSELVES IF THEY'RE GROTESQUE OR NOT.
YOU AREN'T GROTESQUE YET—
?
I CAN'T STAND BEARDSLEY— BUT YOU AREN'T BAD YOURSELF


IF THEIR SKIN AND BUST IS STILL FIRM, IF THEY HAVE WRINKLES-
lap
YOU AREN'T GROTESQUE YET
BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS THINKING ABOUT YOU, BEAUTIFUL AND PROUD OF YOUR YOUTH AS YOU ARE.
AM I STUPID? IT'S BEEN OVER 20 YEARS SINCE I,
THE FEMALE THIEF NEPENTHES
CAST ASIDE SUCH TRIVIAL THINGS AS THE WHEREABOUTS OF MY FEELINGS AND EVEN THAT MAN
WHERE COULD THAT DELIGHT AND THAT RELIEF, AS WELL AS THE THOUGHT OF WHOLEHEARTEDLY WANTING TO KILL THE MAN WHO CAUSED THEM HAVE COME FROM…?
MA'AM, THE SON OF THE TATSUMI FAMILY IS HERE…

"You aren't grotesque yet"
I TAKE PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT I'VE PRESERVED MY YOUTH AND GOOD LOOKS MORE THAN OTHER WOMEN MY AGE HAVE.
MA'AM.
SEND HIM AWAY... I WON'T BE SEEING HIM TODAY.
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'RE SO ANNOYING.
WHAT REASON SHOULD I GIVE HIM...?

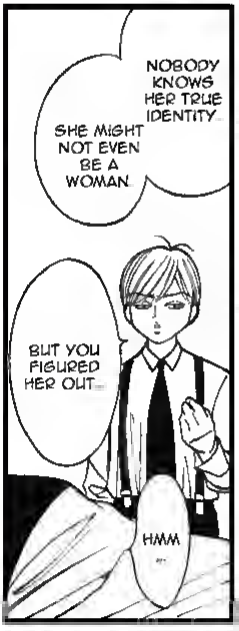
"I CAN'T GET BARON AONEKO OUT OF MY HEAD."
QUICKLY, MY CUTE EROTICA...

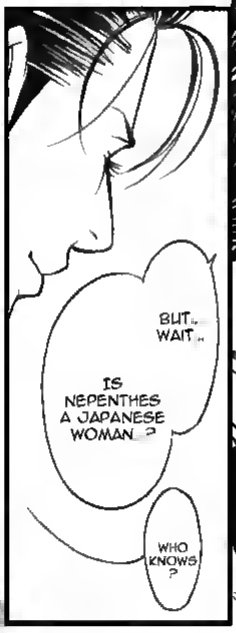

WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT PLAN OF YOURS TO USE YOUR SEDUCTION TECHNIQUE...?
TO SAVE HIS SON WHO'S BEEN ENTRANCED BY AN ELDER WOMAN.
IS IT ALRIGHT? WASN'T IT A REQUEST FROM VISCOUNT TATSUMI?
NO, FOR THE TIME BEING.
WON'T YOU GO TO THAT UNDERGROUND CLUB ANYMORE? SENSEI

HOW DID IT GO AGAIN... "IF I MAKE A MOVE ON HER, THAT WOMAN WILL SURELY FALL,
AND SHE'LL PAY NO ATTENTION TO SOMEONE LIKE TATSUMI'S SON" OR SOMETHING...
YES... THAT WENT SPLENDIDLY WELL.
THAT'S WHY I WON'T GO FOR THE TIME BEING, TORATO-KUN...
IT WENT SPLENDIDLY WELL...?
DID YOU RESEARCH HER PERSONAL HISTORY?
YES..
IT SEEMS LIKE SHE WAS THE MISTRESS OF A BRITISH GEM DEALER UNDER THE ALIAS "MRS. KUROE", SO TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS DEATH, SHE CAME BACK TO JAPAN 2 YEARS AGO,
AND OPENED THAT UNDERGROUND CLUB, HAVING PATRONS EVEN AMONG THE HIGH SOCIETY..
I AM SORRY SENSEI. I HAVE TO OFFER YOU A FULL-SCALE APOLOGY IN RELATION TO THIS CASE
IT'S NO GOOD, I CAN'T GET HOLD OF ANYTHING USEFUL.
I'M AFRAID THIS IS ALL I HAVE...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE. WHAT I WANTED TO KNOW WAS THIS.
"EVEN THE BRILLIANT TORATO CAN'T GET A GRIP ON HER"
DO YOU KNOW OF THE PHANTOM THIEF CALLED NEPENTHES? SHE HAD MADE HERSELF A NAME IN EUROPE FOR A LONG TIME

"Nepenthes, the Female thief". Her prey consists of precious stones and beautiful men and women.

It is said that she keeps countless stuffed humans adorned with jewels in her hiding place.





HER PECULIARITY IS THAT SHE DOESN'T TAKE THE INITIATIVE HERSELF...
FOR WHATEVER REASON, BOTH THE PEOPLE AND GEMS GO TOWARDS HER...
JUST LIKE THE INSECTS THAT GO ALONG THE PITCHER PLANT'S TENDRIL...

I WAS REMINDED OF ALL THOSE YEARS I SPENT WITH THAT MAN...
THOSE DEPRAVED NIGHTS...
WHILE LOOKING AT THAT WOMAN, ALL OF A SUDDEN,
I WONDER IF I CAN SAY THAT I FIGURED IT OUT... ON THE CONTRARY, IT WAS A FEELING...

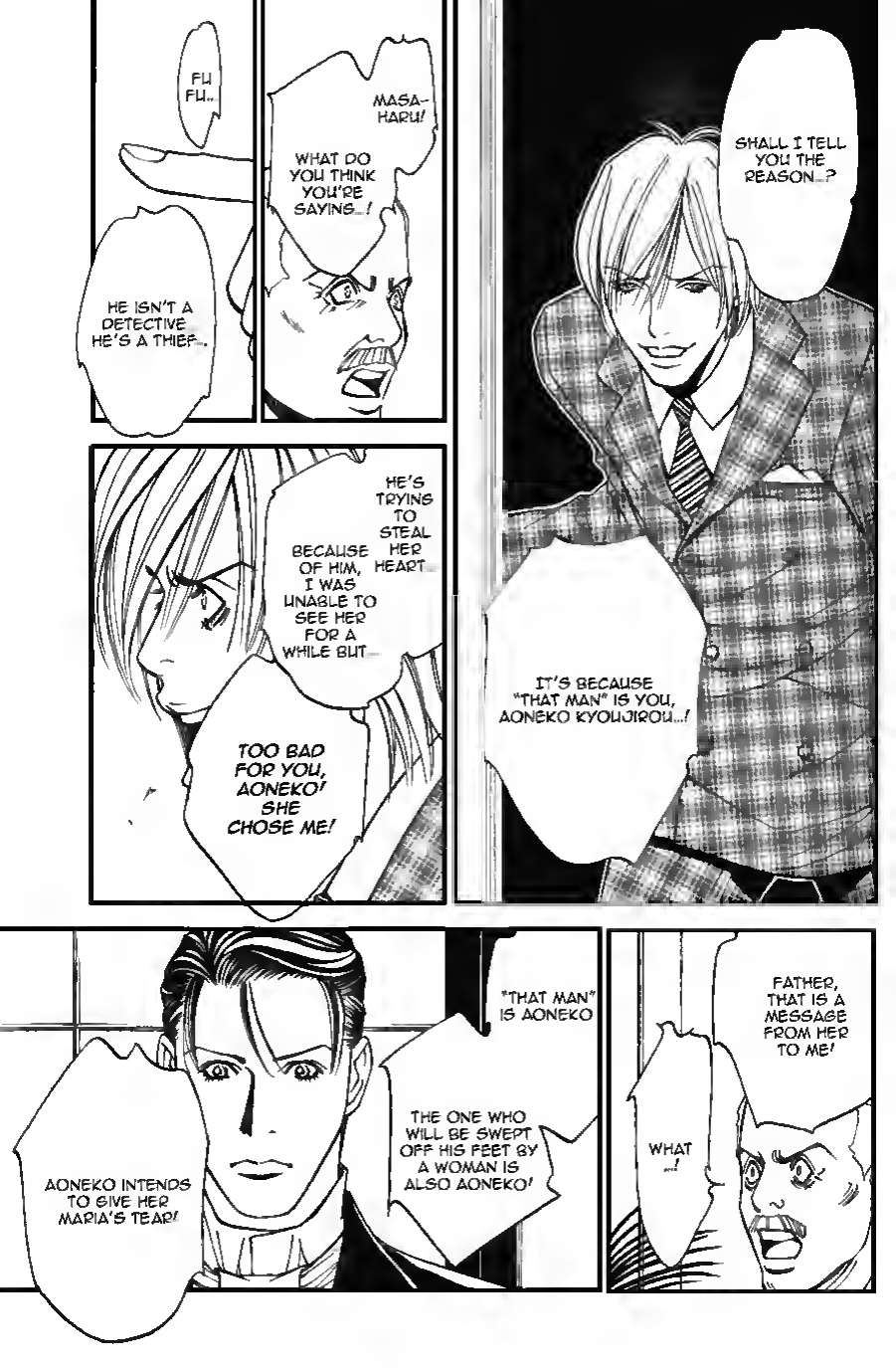
I CAN'T TELL SUCH A THING TO ANYONE, LET ALONE TORATO-KUN.
THAT'S RIGHT.
EXCEPT FOR THAT WOMAN...
IN ANY CASE, IT SEEMS LIKE YOU HAVE SOME POSITIVE PROOF...
AND THAT'S WHY YOU WON'T GO TO THAT UNDERGROUND CLUB FOR THE TIME BEING.
BECAUSE YOU WON'T DO SOMETHING LIKE GOING DOWN NEPENTHES' TENDRIL ON YOUR OWN ACCORD...
I DON'T WANT TO FLATTER YOU,
BUT I THINK YOU'D BE QUITE A FINE MOUNTED SPECIMEN, SENSEI...
YOU'VE GAINED NEPENTHES' ACKNOWLEDGEMENT.
IT CAN'T BE HELPED, CAN IT? I WENT THERE WITH THAT VERY INTENTION.
IT MIGHT BE A TRAP.
IT'S HIGHLY PROBABLE.
YOU KNOW RIGHT? AT VISCOUNT TATSUMI'S HOUSE, THERE IS THAT ELUSIVE THING...

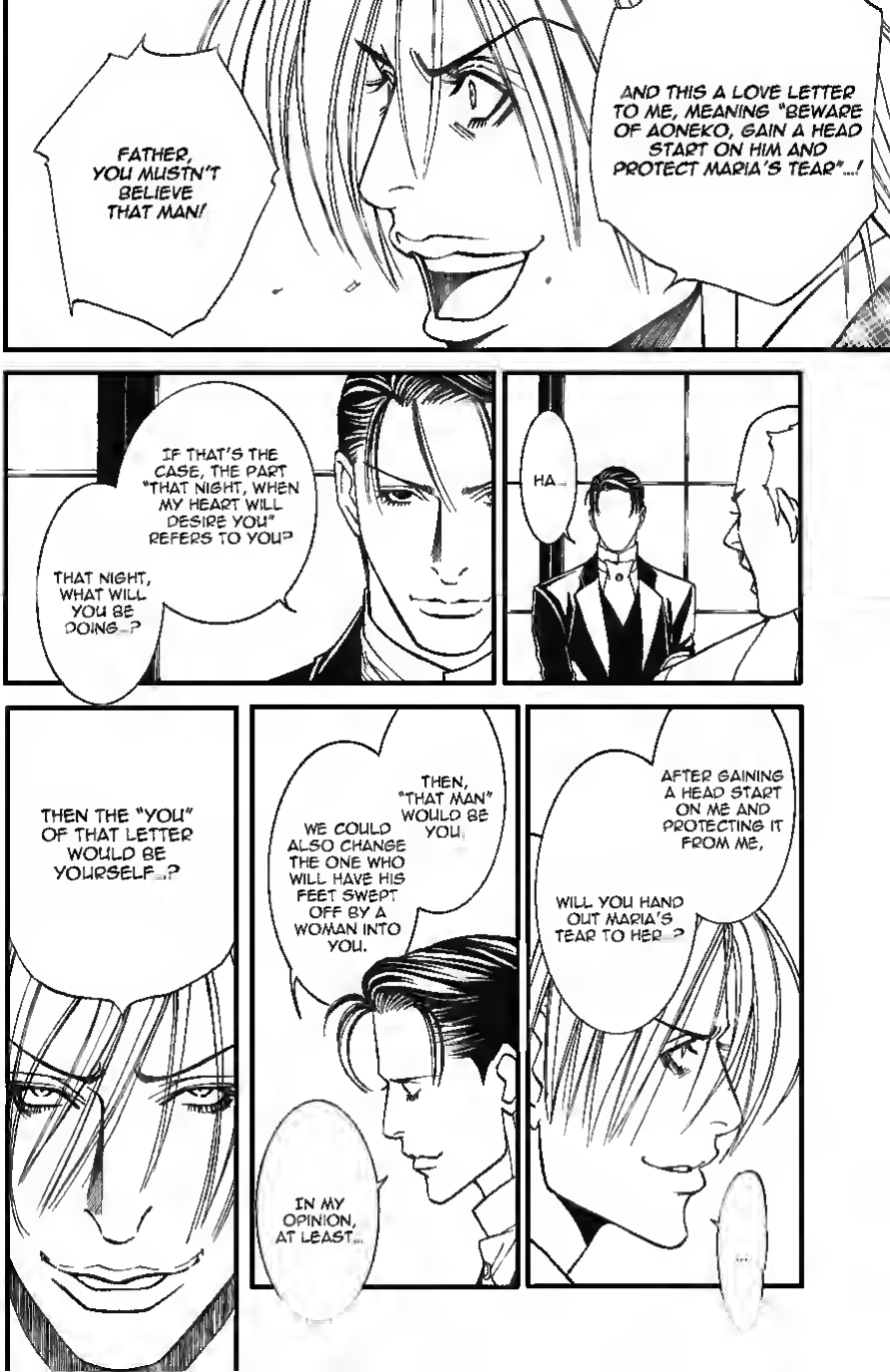
The exquisite ruby, "Maria's Tear",
that gem should be well up Nepenthes' standards.
"MARIA'S TEAR"!
IF SHE MANAGED TO STEAL THAT, NEPENTHES WOULD SURPASS JAPAN'S MOST FAMOUS PHANTOM THIEF AS WELL AS JAPAN'S MOST FAMOUS DETECTIVE—HOWEVER,
IT IS THAT OBJECT THAT GLASS BAT WAS AFTER, BUT YOU PREVENTED HIM FROM STEALING IT, SENSEI
I SEE... THIS HAS A WHOLE BACK-STORY
WELL, DOES SHE KNOW?
IF WE ASSUME THAT THE SECRET HAS BEEN REVEALED, THEN IT COULD ONLY HAVE BEEN BY THE BAT'S MOUTH.
DOES NEPENTHES KNOW THAT THIS IS A FAKE?
AND THAT THE AUTHENTIC "MARIA'S TEAR" IS IN YOUR HANDS...?

HMPH! SHE PROBABLY DOESN'T KNOW.
PRECISELY. THAT WOMAN SIMPLY DESIRES ME, IRRELEVANTLY OF THE GEM.
AND THE PROOF IS THAT GAZE OF HERS, AS IF SHE'S STARING AT A PIECE OF EROTICA!
SOME TEA PLEASE, TORATO-KUN
IF BY ANY CHANCE, THE BAT WAS CONNECTED TO HER,
WOULD HE LEND A HAND TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD TRY TO CAUSE HIS OWN STATUS TO DECLINE?
JUST LIKE HOW HE HANDED THAT GEM OVER TO ME...

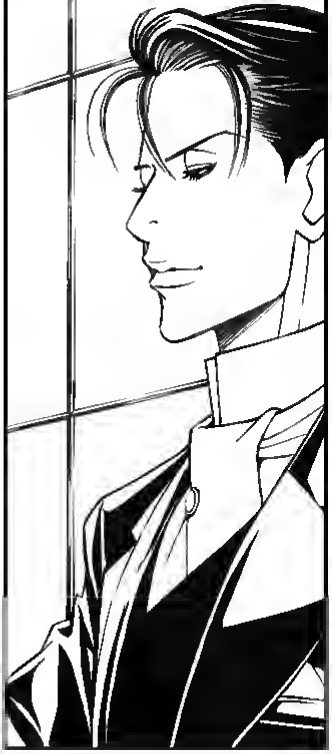
Someone is trying to steal Maria's Tear. Beware of that man. On that night, when he will be swept off his feet by the lips of a woman wearing the sweet, dripping nectar that pools in the pitcher of the pitcher plant. Or even, on that night when my heart will desire you.

SO THIS IS ABOUT MY SON AFTER ALL..?
YOUR SON.
THAT PART WHICH GOES "HE WILL BE SWEPT OFF HIS FEET BY THE LIPS OF THAT WOMAN"...!
WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, AONEKO-KUN...?
HMM
MARIA'S TEAR IS..
THIS IS A ROBBERY ANNOUN-CEMENT LETTER, ISN'T IT...!?
EVEN THOUGH LATELY, THAT WOMAN HAS BEEN TURNING HIM AWAY...
IMPOSSIBLE COULD IT BE...
AAH..
CREAK
I WONDER WHAT MAKES YOU SO ASSERTIVE...
DETECTIVE AONEKO...
THAT IS NOT IT.
"THAT MAN"
IS THE PHANTOM THIEF, GLASS BAT...!


FU FU...
HE ISN'T A DETECTIVE HE'S A THIEF...
MASA-HARU!
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE SAYING...!
SHALL I TELL YOU THE REASON...?
IT'S BECAUSE "THAT MAN" IS YOU, AONEKO KYOUJIROU...!
HE'S TRYING TO STEAL HER HEART...
BECAUSE OF HIM, I WAS UNABLE TO SEE HER FOR A WHILE BUT...
TOO BAD FOR YOU, AONEKO! SHE CHOSE ME!
"THAT MAN" IS AONEKO
THE ONE WHO WILL BE SWEPT OFF HIS FEET BY A WOMAN IS ALSO AONEKO!
AONEKO INTENDS TO GIVE HER MARIA'S TEAR!
FATHER, THAT IS A MESSAGE FROM HER TO ME!
WHAT ...!

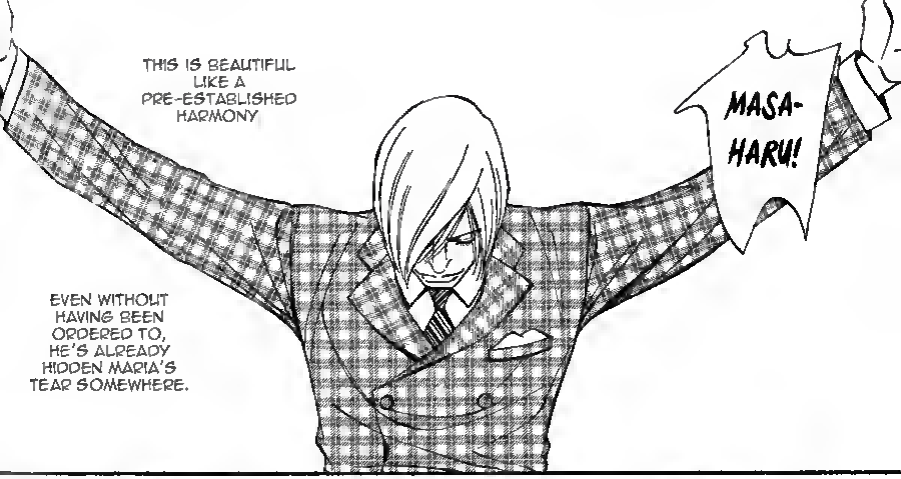

FATHER, YOU MUSTN'T BELIEVE THAT MAN!
AND THIS A LOVE LETTER TO ME, MEANING "BEWARE OF AONEKO, GAIN A HEAD START ON HIM AND PROTECT MARIA'S TEAR"...!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE PART "THAT NIGHT, WHEN MY HEART WILL DESIRE YOU" REFERS TO YOU?
THAT NIGHT, WHAT WILL YOU BE DOING...?
HA...
THEN THE "YOU" OF THAT LETTER WOULD BE YOURSELF...?
THEN, "THAT MAN" WOULD BE YOU.
WE COULD ALSO CHANGE THE ONE WHO WILL HAVE HIS FEET SWEPT OFF BY A WOMAN INTO YOU.
IN MY OPINION, AT LEAST...
AFTER GAINING A HEAD START ON ME AND PROTECTING IT FROM ME,
WILL YOU HAND OUT MARIA'S TEAR TO HER...?
...

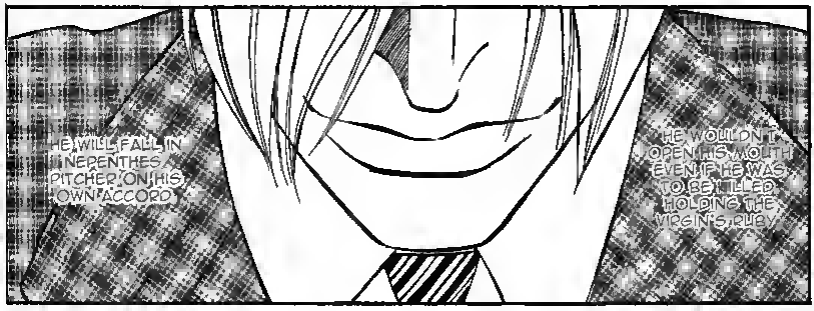
STILL, I HAVE TO PRAISE YOUR SENSE
YOU THOUGHT THE SAME THING AS ME
WHAT A FOOLISH MAN!
HAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA!

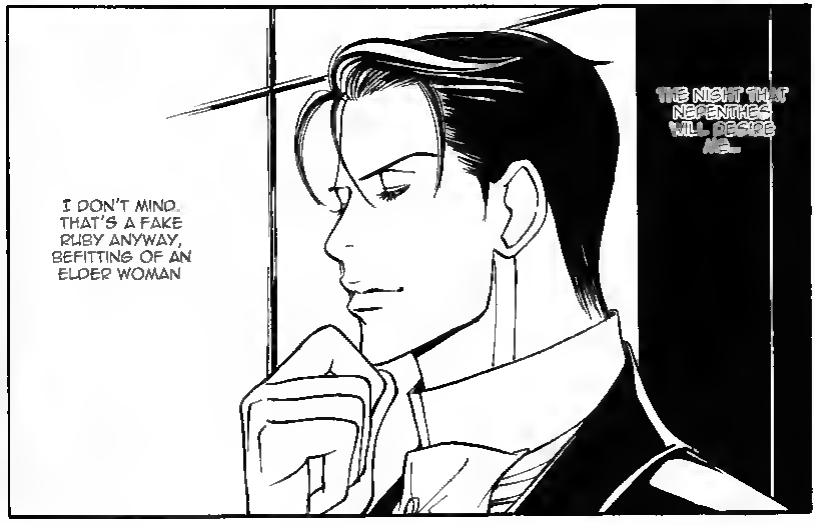


"THE VIRGIN'S RUBY", MARIA'S TEAR, DOES SUIT HER.
YES,

I'M SURE SHE WILL REJOICE WHEN SHE HEARS THIS.
THAT 10 DAYS BEFORE THIS LOVE LETTER ARRIVED, I HAD ALREADY GAINED A HEAD START ON HIM.
THAT'S WHY... FATHER, YOUR EXCELLENT SON HAS ALREADY MADE PREPARATIONS FOR HER.


THIS IS BEAUTIFUL LIKE A PRE-ESTABLISHED HARMONY
MASA-HARU!
EVEN WITHOUT HAVING BEEN ORDERED TO, HE'S ALREADY HIDDEN MARIA'S TEAR SOMEWHERE.


HE WILL FALL IN NEPENTHES PITCHER (ON HIS OWN ACCORD).
HE WOULDN'T OPEN HIS MOUTH EVEN IF HE WAS TO BE KILLED HOLDING THE VIRGIN'S RUBY.


I DON'T MIND. THAT'S A FAKE RUBY ANYWAY, BEFITTING OF AN ELDER WOMAN
THE NIGHT THAT NEPENTHES WILL RESIDE ME...